



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Law Enforcement Officers, Inspectors and Inspection Stations
FROM: Lt. Brian P. Scott - Maine State Police Traffic Safety Unit
DATE: 6-22-2010
RE: Exhaust Law changes

Over the past several years the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation has heard several bills dealing with loud exhausts on motorcycles and road noise in general. As a result of a couple of bills that were introduced during the 124th Legislature Second Regular Session there will be a law change in Title 29-A Section 1912, effective July 12th of this year and a law change in Title 29-A Section 1758, effective January 1st, 2012. Please see below:

Effective July 12th, 2010

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1912, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

1. Muffler required. A person may not operate a motor vehicle unless that vehicle is equipped with an adequate muffler properly maintained to prevent excessive or unusual noise. For purposes of this subsection, "excessive or unusual noise" includes motor noise emitted by a motor vehicle that is noticeably louder than similar vehicles in the environment.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1912, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

3. Amplification prohibited. A person may not operate a motor vehicle with an exhaust system that has been modified ~~to amplify~~ when the result of that modification is the amplification or increase ~~the~~ of noise emitted by the motor above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle.

Sec. 3. Working group; excessive highway traffic noise. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police shall convene a working group to study issues relating to highway traffic noise, including, but not limited to, unwarranted noise created when an exhaust system is not properly installed or maintained or is altered. The working group must include representatives from municipal and county law enforcement, a commercial motor carrier association, the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority and a neighborhood or neighborhood association affected by highway noise. The working group shall submit a report, including findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than January 15, 2011.

The above law pertains to all motor vehicles regardless of where they are registered. This is only the portion of 29-A Section 1912 that is being changed. Please refer to 29-A for full text.



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Effective January 1st, 2012

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1758, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

2. Without windshield. If the vehicle is not normally equipped with a windshield, the certificate of inspection must be kept with the registration certificate of the vehicle. This subsection does not apply to motorcycles.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1758, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Motorcycles; proof of inspection. If a motorcycle meets the inspection standard, upon payment of applicable inspection fees pursuant to section 1751, subsection 3A a valid certificate of inspection and an official inspection sticker for the motorcycle must be issued. The certificate of inspection must be kept with the registration certificate of the motorcycle and the official inspection sticker must be affixed to the rear of the motorcycle:

A. On a mounting plate that must be securely fastened to the motorcycle frame or similar integral component of the motorcycle; or

B. On a rear fender or similar frame or integral body part of the motorcycle.

The official inspection sticker must be located so that it is completely and clearly visible from the rear of the motorcycle and may not be affixed to the registration plate.

Sec. 3. Working group; motorcycle noise. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police shall convene a working group to study issues relating to motorcycle noise. The working group must include, but is not limited to, representatives from affected citizen groups, local municipalities, the motorcycle industry, motorcycle enthusiast groups and local law enforcement agencies. The working group shall investigate and research industry sound testing standards, particularly the Society of Automotive Engineers Standard J2825, "Measurement of Exhaust Sound Pressure Levels of Stationary On-Highway Motorcycles," and the feasibility of incorporating United States Environmental Protection Agency noise emission labeling standards into state law. The report of the working group must include an analysis of motorcycle safety inspections and a requirement that an inspection sticker be displayed visibly on the motorcycle. The Bureau of State Police shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters, with findings and recommendations, no later than January 15, 2011.

This is only the portion of 29-A Section 1758 that is being changed. Please refer to 29-A for full text.